Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables due to Improper Post Harvest handling

1363. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of the 21-2-1989 wherein it has been stated that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 3,000 crores are wasted every year due to improper post harvest handling ;

(b) if so, the quantity of fruits and vegetables wasted during the last three years, year wise and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps have since been taken by Government to avoid such wastage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No official estimates are available.

(c) A separate Department of Food Processing Industry has been established to encourage food processing. The National Horticulture Board is implementing schemes for reducing post harvest losses. A Central Cold Storage facility with grading and packing facilities has been established by National dairy Development Board under which 135 outlets for distribution of fruits and vegetables in Delhi have been set up.

Margin of Profit in Determining Prices of Agricultural Produce

1364. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Price Commission determines the prices of agricultural products keeping a margin of 12% to 15% profit; and

(b) if so, the names of areas and crops where the farmers during the last year have got that much of profit keeping in view the labour of his family members and others, the interest on his investment and other liabilities that he had to incur during the farming period of the crop ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b) With a view to evolve a balanced and intergrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices while recommending the level of procurements minimum support price takes into account not only a comprehensive overview of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity but also a number of important factors including cost of production. The price fixed covers not only cost of production

but also provide a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology. No fixed margin of profit as such is included in the prices fixed in respect of different crops. The cost of production covers not only all paid-out costs but also imputed value of owned easts including a land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses.

Bungling in Consumer Federation

1365. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times, dated 8-9-1989 under the caption "Bungling in Consumer Federation." ;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the rejoinder given by the NCCF on 5-10-1988 in Hindustan Times and the footnote of the correspondent of the Hindustan Times of sticking to his guns ;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the NCCF and the officer responsible for creating this mess in the organisation resulting in huge loss of over Rs. 9 crore as pointed out by CAG in its report; and

(d) whether Government propose to order auditing, inspection and inquiry under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) NCCF management have initiated a number of enquiries into various cases of losses and irregularities and have been pursuing action against the erring officials . In a few cases the services of the officers concerned have been dispensed with.

(d) No, Sir.

Report of National Labour Institute on the condition of Agricultural Labour in Bakhari and Begusarai District in Bihar

1366. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether the Labour Institute has prepared a report on the condition of agriculture labour in Bakhari in Begusarai district of Bihar; if so, what action has been taken so far on it ; if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHANAN MALAVIYA) : The National Labour Institute had prepared a Report on Organisation Building by Agriculture Labour in Bakhari. A copy of the Report has already been sent to the State Govt. of Bihar. It is for the State Government to consider and examine further action.